

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-08 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00

XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05

SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 DODE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 /104 W

-----190151Z 106873 /20

R 180933Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7346

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USDEL MTN GENEVA

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 4070

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEAN RP, JA

SUBJECT: ASEAN/JAPAN ECONOMIC DIALOGUE

1. JAPANESE CHARGE MAKOTO TANIGUCHI, DISCUSSING THE MEETING BETWEEN ASEAN LEADERS AND PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE ASEAN SUMMIT IN KUALA LUMPUR IN AUGUST, COMMENTED TO EMBOFFS ON MARCH 18 THAT THE ASEAN REQUEST THAT THE VISITOR BRING GIFTS WAS MOST UNUSUAL AND "UN-ASIAN." TANIGUCHI AGREED THAT THE REQUEST WAS INSTIGATED BY LEE KUAN YEW AND PRESIDENT MARCOS, BOTH OF WHOM REFLECTED THEIR OWN PREDILECTIONS. ASKED WHAT GIFTS FUKUDA WOULD BRING, TANIGUCHI DEMURRED AT DISCUSSING THIS, STATING  
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THE THE FINE ASEAN INDUSTRIAL PRJECTS ARE STILL IN THE PLANNING STAGE.

2. TANIGUCHI ALSO DISCUSSED THE ASEAN DESIRE FOR A LOME-TYPE ARRANGEMENT WITH JAPAN. HE EMPHATICALLY STATED THAT THE GOJ TRADE POLICY IS GLOBAL IN VIEW, AND THE MOST THAT THE GOJ COULD CONCEDE WAS ITS

TROPICAL PRODUCTS LIST AT THE MTN IN GENEVA. THIS LIST WAS OF PARTICULAR VALUE TO ASEAN, FOR MOST OF THE PRODUCTS ON THE LIST WHICH JAPAN IMPORTED CAME FROM ASEAN COUNTRIES.

3. WE POINTED OUT THAT THE ASEAN COUNTRIES FELT JAPAN DEPENDED ON THEM FOR MUCH OF ITS RAW MATERIALS AND COULD NOT IGNORE ITS OWN BACKYARD. TANIGUCHI REPLIED THAT GOJ HAD TO DISABUSE THE ASEAN LEADERS OF THIS ERRONEOUS BELIEF, FOR JAPAN OBTAINED ITS RAW MATERIALS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD, INCLUDING CANADA, THE U.S. AND AUSTRALIA. INDEED, JAPAN WAS MUCH MORE DEPENDENT ON AUSTRALIA THAN ON ASEAN.

4. TANIGUCHI STATED THAT THE ASEAN/JAPAN DIALOGUE WOULD BE HELD ON MARCH 23 IN JAKARTA, AND THE GOJ DELEGATION WOULD BE HEADED BY DIRECTOR MAKAI OF THE ASIAN BUREAU OF THE GAIMUSHO. THE MORNING SESSION WOULD BE A CONTINUATION OF THE ASEAN/JAPAN FORUM, AND THE AFTERNOON SESSION WOULD BE CONCERNED WITH PREPARATIONS FOR THE FUKUDA MEETING WITH ASEAN LEADERS IN AUGUST. ASKED WHY THIS DIALOGUE WAS SO SHORT, TANIGUCHI REPLIED THAT WAS ALL THE TIME GOJ OFFICIALS COULD AFFORD.  
SULLIVAN

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## Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld  
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